

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/688,122

Examiner

Joseph Lauture

Applicant(s)

BULT ET AL.

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to correspondence filed 05/24/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 101703
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In claim 2, line 1: delete "the".

In claim 2, line 2: delete "from" and insert -- of --.

In claim 2, line 7: delete "a first" and insert -- the first--.

In claim 2, line 16: delete "the" (second occurrence).

In claim 2, line 20: delete "the" (first occurrence).

In claim 10, line 4: delete "the" (first occurrence).

In claim 10, line 4: delete "the" between "of" and "changes".

In claim 13, line 2: delete "from" and insert --of--.

In claim 13, line 18: delete "the" between "affect" and "relative".

In claim 13, line 21: delete "the" (first occurrence).

In claim 17, line 1: delete "from" and insert --of--.

In claim 21, line 4: delete "the direction" and insert -- a direction--.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with A. Hasan on 06/04/2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior arts of record fail to teach a circuit for reducing mismatches between outputs of successive pairs of cells in an analog to digital converter, comprising: a plurality of cells each having a first input terminal, a second input terminal, a first output terminal and a second output terminal; a voltage input means, coupled to the first input terminal of each cell, introducing an input voltage to the first input terminal; a reference voltage means, coupled to the second input terminal of each cell, for producing progressive fractions of a reference voltage at each of the second input terminals; a low impedance means, coupled between corresponding first output terminals in successive cells, and coupled between corresponding second output terminals in successive cells, drawing load-bearing currents to the successive cells to affect relative voltages on the first output terminal and the second output terminal and reduce the effects of cell mismatches on the output terminals; and a high impedance means, coupled to each of the first output terminals in successive cells and to each of the second output terminals in successive cells, for providing a high impedance relative to an impedance provided by said low impedance means.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2819

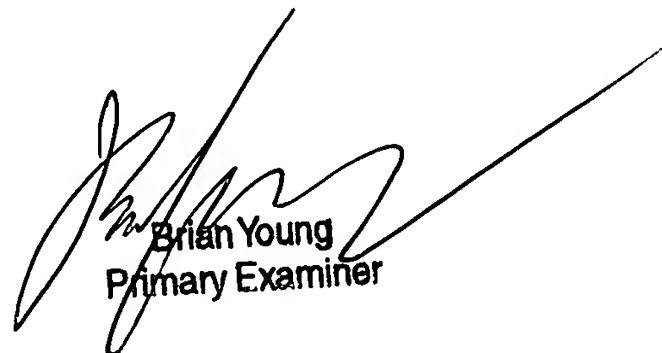
CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Lauture, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1805. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between 9:30 am and 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Tokar can be reached at (571) 272-1812. The fax number for the organization to which this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Joseph Lauture
Group: 2819
Date: 06/04/04



Brian Young
Primary Examiner